

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of providing a portable information agent comprising:

presenting a graphical representation of **[[a]] an original** portable information agent as part of a first composition accessed by an initial application, said **original** portable information agent comprising a software object, having state, and having one or more possible external connections, said first composition providing a first execution context for said **original** portable information agent;

allowing ~~relocation~~ **replication** of said portable information agent to a location outside of said initial application; and

thereafter moving said **replicated** portable information agent to said outside location such that said **replicated** portable information agent becomes part of a second composition, said second composition providing a second execution context for said **replicated** portable information agent in which said state of said **replicated** portable information agent is preserved, **a persistent link exists between the original portable information agent and the replicated portable information agent, and** wherein said initial application comprises a web browser and said first composition is part of a web page.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said **replicated** portable information agent, once relocated, persists and maintains said state after termination of said initial application.

Claim 3 (cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said initial application comprises an email client and said first composition is part of an email message.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said initial application comprises a desktop provided by an operating system.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said relocation is repeatable from a current location to any number of additional platforms.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5 wherein said desktop provided by an operating system comprises an interface of a platform, said platform selected from the group consisting of: a Windows PC, a Macintosh PC, a unix-type operating system, a set-top box, a wireless logic appliance, an internet appliance, a personal digital assistant, or another device connected to a network.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said new location is selected from the group consisting of: a desktop provided by an operating system, a different application, and a different computer platform with a different operating system.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said **replicated** portable information agent includes one or more user interface components and wherein said interface components are preserved after a relocation.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said **replicated** portable information agent includes one or more connections to one or more external entities and wherein said connections are preserved after a relocation.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said allowing relocation comprises allowing a user to select and drag said graphical representation.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said allowing relocation comprises allowing a user to discontinuously select said graphical representation and place said graphical representation in a new location.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said allowing relocation comprises allowing said graphical representation to move to a new location without an action by a user.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein said one or more external entities are selected from the group consisting of: web servers, other applications, background processes, and other remote processes.

15. (Currently amended) A method of interacting with a portable information agent comprising:

providing **[[a]] an original** portable information agent object as part of a first composition accessed by an initial application, said **original** portable information agent object comprising a software object, said first composition providing a first execution context for said portable information object;

allowing a user to select said **original** portable information agent object and **relocate replicate** said **original** portable information agent object outside of said initial application;

upon detecting said relocating, determining if sufficient infrastructure logic exists to allow said **replicated** portable information agent object to operate in a new location;

if said determining indicates that sufficient infrastructure does not exist, contacting an agent server to request necessary infrastructure logic;

downloading and installing necessary infrastructure logic; and

thereafter moving said **replicated** portable information agent object to said new location such that said **replicated** portable information agent object becomes part of a second composition that provides a second execution context for said **replicated** portable information agent object;

wherein said initial application comprises a web browser and said first composition comprises a web page, **and a persistent connection exists between the original portable information agent object and the replicated portable information agent object.**

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15 wherein said new location is selected from the group consisting of: a desktop provided by an operating system, a different application, and a different computer platform with a different operating system.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15 wherein said **replicated** portable information agent object is associated with a graphic object constructed from presentation primitives that allow user interaction with said graphic object.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15 wherein said **replicated** portable information agent object includes logic allowing communication with a data server for tracking user interaction.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 19 wherein said **replicated** portable information agent object and said infrastructure allow communication with a data server for tracking user interaction after said **replicated** portable information agent object has been moved to a new location.

21. (New) A system for providing a portable information agent comprising:
an original portable information agent that is part of a first composition accessed by an application operating on a first processor, the original portable information agent comprising a software object, having state, and having one or more external connections, the first composition providing a first execution context for the original portable information agent; and
a relocated portable information agent that is part of a second composition accessed by an application operating on a second processor, the relocated portable information agent comprising a software object, having state, and having one or more external connections including a persistent connection to the original portable information agent, the second composition providing a second execution context for the relocated portable information agent.

22. (New) The system of claim 21 further comprising a plurality of relocated portable information agents that are each part of one of a corresponding plurality of compositions, each accessed by one of a corresponding plurality of applications, each operating on one of a corresponding plurality of processors, each of the relocated portable information agents comprising a software object, having state, and having one or more external connections including a persistent connection to the original portable information agent.